

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18-20, 22-33, and 35-45 are presented for examination, a Request for Continued Examination being filed herewith. Claims 18, 19, 26, 31, 32, and 39 have been amended as discussed below. Claims 1, 14, 18, and 31 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

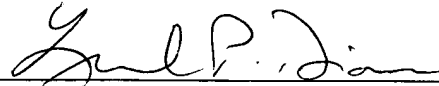
As discussed in previously-filed responses in this application, the invention generally is directed to a optical scanning apparatus with a movable laser unit. Claim 18 has been amended to recite that the laser unit is adapted to be moved in the main scanning direction without changing a direction of an optical axis of the incident optical system (the claim previously recited “without moving in a direction of an optical axis”). Claims 19, 26, 31, 32, and 39 have been similarly amended.

The cited art, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,355,859 (Herloski et al.), appears to show laser units that may be adjusted by rotation, but nothing has been found in the prior art that would teach or suggest a laser unit adapted to be moved in the main scanning direction without changing a direction of an optical axis of the incident optical system, in the manner claimed. Thus, the amendments made herein are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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